

Message Text

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67

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00

OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 L-03

NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-03 SS-15

SP-02 INT-05 FEA-01 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 /119 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6199

INFO AMMBASSY ANKARA 954

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMOSSY MADRID

AMEMOASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMMBASSY VIENNA 2763

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VIENNA FOR UNIDO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE

SUBJECT: ECE-COMMITTEE ON WATER PROBLEMS-USSR BLOCKS PARTICIPATION
IN UNEP ACTION PLAN TO PROTECT MEDITERRANIAN THROUGH
ASSESSMENT OF LAND BASED INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION

1. SUMMARY: AT METING OF ECE WATER COMMITTE OCTOBER 3,
USSR BLOCKED PROPOSAL BY ECE SECRETARIAT THAT COMMITTE
DEVELOP PROJECT TO ASSESS EFFECTS ON MEDITERRANEAN SEA OF
POLLUTION ARISING FROM LAND BASED INDUSTRIAL SOURCES IN
ECE COUNTRIES. PROPOSAL ENVISAGED CONVENING OF AD HOC
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MEETING OF ECE COUNTRIES BODERING MEDITERRANEAN IN

FEBURARY 1976 TO DEVELOP PROPOSAL TO UNEP REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECT. PROJECT WOULD HAVE BEEN PART OF OVERALL UNEP ACTION PLAN TO PROTECT MEDITERRANEAN

AND WOULD HAVE TIED IN WITH ANTICIPATED UNEP/UNIDO ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF SUCH POLLUTION FROM SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. PROPOSAL WAS ACTIVELY PUSHED BY ECE MEMBERS BORDERING MEDITERRANEAN, SUPPORT BY US AND WESTERN EUROPEANS, BUT USSR AND SOME OTHER EASTERN EUROPEANS COMPLAINED OF INSUFFICIENT TIME TO CONSIDER PROPOSAL AND CALLED FOR DEFERRAL OF MATTER FOR ONE YEAR. AFTER HEATED DEBATE, COMMITTEE DECIDED TO REFER MATTER TO 31ST SESSION OF ECE (MARCH 1976) FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. EARLY IN 1975 UNEP SPONSORED MEETING IN BARCELONA TO CONSIDER ACTION PLAN TO PROTECT MEDITERRANEAN. UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WAS REQUESTED, IN CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENTS AND IN COOPERATION WITH APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATIONS OF UN SYSTEM AND COMPETENT INTERGOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, TO CONVENE LIMITED NUMBER OF MEETING TO DEVELOP PLANS FOR VARIOUS PILOT PROJECTS.

3. IT IS EXPECTED THAT UNIDO, WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF UNEP WILL PREPARE AN ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS OF LAND BASED INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION FROM SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES (NON-ECE MEMBERS), WITH OBJECTIVE OF RECOMMENDING MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO REDUCE PRESENT LEVEL OF SUCH POLLUTION IN MEDITERRANEAN.

4. UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE OF ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IN INITIATING SIMILAR PROGRAM FOR NORTHERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES (ALL ECE MEMBERS). PROJECT WOULD BE CARRIED OUT UNDER ECE LEADERSHIP WITH FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF UNEP AND IN COOPERATION WITH OTHER COMPETENT ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UNESCO, WHO AND OECD.

5. ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY RECOMMEND THAT AS FOLLOW UP TO NOVEMBER 1985 LISBON SEMINAR ON PROBLEMS OF COASTAL POLLUTION, COMMITTEE ON WATER PROBLEMS MIGHT WISH TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONVENE AN AD HOC MEETING IN EARLY 1976 TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC PROPOSAL TO UNEP FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED PROJECT. (SEE ECE DOCUMENT WATER/R.36, 16 SEPT 1975). HE POINTED OUT THAT PROPOSAL PARTICULARLY RELEVANT IN LIGHT OF REFERENCES IN CSCE FINAL ACT TO PROTECTION OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT (ESPECIALLY MEDITERRANEAN) FROM POLLUTANTS EMANATING FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES AS AS POSSIBLE AREA OF COOPERATION AND TO INCLUSION ON SUCH ACTIVITIES WITHIN

WORK PROGRAM OF ECE.

6. AT MEETING ON COMMITTEE ON WATER PROBLEMS SEPTMBER 29-
OCTOBER 3, 1975, DELEGATIONS OF GREECE, ITALY, FRANCE,
SPAIN, AND YUGOSLAVIA, BACKED BY US AND OTHER WESTERN
EUROPEANS, SUPPORTED PROPOSAL. AFTER INITIALLY
ACCEPTING PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE, USSR, JOINED BY
CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND UKRANIAN USSR, OPPOSED PROPOSAL
DURING CONSIDERATION OF WORK PROGRAM ON GROUNDS
THAT THEY HAD INSUFFICIENT TIME TO CONSIDER MATTER.
THEY SUGGESTED ACTION BE DEFERRED UNTIL NEXT MEETING
OF COMMITTEE ONE YEAR HENCE.

7. AFTER EXTENSIVE AND QUITE HEATED DEBATE, IT BECAME
CLEAR THAT USSR DELEGATION WAS NOT IN POSITION TO AGREE

TO ANY COMPROMISES PROPOSED. COMMITTEE THEREFORE
DECIDED TO REFLECT DIVERGENT VIEWS IN ITS REPORT AND TO
REFER MATTER TO 31ST SESSION OF ECE (MARCH 1976).

8. COMMENT: REAL CONCERNS OF USSR NOT KNOWN.
MEDITERRANEAN PROJECT IS GIVEN HIGH PRIORITY AND WORK IN
NORTHERN BORDERING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE CONDUCTED
CONCURRENTLY WITH THAT IN SOUTHERN AND EASTERN COUNTRIES.
SECONDLY, UNFORTUNATE PRECEDENT IS BEING ESTABLISHED BY
OUTSIDE COUNTRIES INTERJECTING ITSELF INTO WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY
A SUB-REGIONAL PROJECT AND EFFECTIVELY
VETOING FURTHER ACTION BY COMMITTEE ON WATER PROBLEMS.
ECE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY STANOVNIK IS KNOWN TO FEEL
STRONGLY THAT PROJECT MUST PROCEED, AND IT IS TO BE
EXPECTED THAT HE WILL PRESS FOR FURTHER ACTION, EITHER
IN WATER COMMITTEE OR OTHER CHANNELS (E.G., THROUGH
ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORS OR SECRETARIAT TO SECRETARIAT
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 07 OCT 1975
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
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